

S.N. 10/614,074 - First Resp. to 2/26/07 OA

Attorney Docket TKM-1005-U.S.

CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A system for securing a ~~plurality of~~ visible facing objects ~~in-abutting-relationship-to-one-another~~ to a rigid supporting structure using fastening means, ~~whereby, in-use, the fastening means is indistinguishable from the area surrounding the fastening means from a very short distance away and virtually vandal proof~~, said system including

a supporting structure,

a visible facing objects of stone or similar frangible material having an exterior viewable surface and

fastening means for securing ~~each~~ the visible facing object ~~in-abutting relationship to adjoining visible facing objects~~ to the supporting structure,

said fastening means being indistinguishable from the area surrounding the fastening means from a very short distance away,

said fastening means further being virtually vandal proof,

that portion of the fastening means which is visible only within a very short distance away is activateable only by non-standard tool means,

the only visible portion of the fastening means on the visible facing object being a small access hole in the visible facing object located inwardly from the edges thereof.

2. (cancelled)

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3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) The system of claim 6 1 further characterized in that

said access hole is located in a design on the exterior viewable surface of the visible facing object.

at least a portion of the design on the visible surface of the visible facing object is linear,

the size of the access hole being the same or substantially the same as that portion of the linear design within which it is located.

8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) The system of claim 22 1 further characterized in that

the aligned means in the screw head for receiving an actuating tool is a torx socket and

the tool is a torx screwdriver.

10. (original) The system of claim 9 further characterized,

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firstly, in that the torx socket in the screw head is of a size different from the size of a standard torx socket, and

secondly, in that the size of the head of the torx screwdriver is different from a standard torx screwdriver head.

11. (original) The system of claim 10 further characterized in that

the size of the torx socket in the head of the rivet nut screw and the size of the head of the torx screwdriver are intermediate standard torx sizes.

12. (currently amended) A system for securing a visible facing object to a rigid supporting structure using fastening means whereby, in use, the fastening means is indistinguishable from the area surrounding the fastening means from a very short distance away and virtually vandal proof, said system including

a supporting structure,

a visible facing object of stone or similar frangible material, and

fastening means for securing the visible facing object to the supporting structure,

said fastening means being indistinguishable from the area surrounding the fastening means from a very short distance away,

said fastening means further being virtually vandal proof,

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the fastening means is accessible through a small access hole in the exterior, viewable surface of the visible facing object extending part way into the body thereof, and further including

a larger access hole in the interior hidden surface of the visible facing object which is axially concentric with the smaller access hole and extends into the body of said object from the interior surface thereof until it connects with the small access hole,

an opening in the supporting structure of a size suitable to slidably receive the threaded end of a rivet nut,

a rivet nut screw having a head received in the larger access hole,

a tube surrounding the rivet nut screw and extending between the rivet nut in its as made condition and the base of the larger access hole,

the size of the access hole being slightly larger than (a) the diameter of the head of the rivet nut screw and (b) twice the thickness of the wall of the tube,

the head of the screw having means aligned with the small access hole to receive a tool for activating the rivet nut,

the aligned means in the screw head for receiving an actuating tool is a torx socket and

the tool is a torx screwdriver, and further characterized

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firstly, in that the torx socket in the screw head is of a size different from the size of a standard torx socket, and

secondly, in that the size of the head of the torx screwdriver is different from a standard torx screwdriver head,

the size of the torx socket in the head of the rivet nut screw and the size of the head of the torx screwdriver are intermediate standard torx sizes,

the end of the tube which is received in the large access hole is slotted to form prongs which may be expanded outwardly thereby increasing pressure upon the wall of the hole upon application of the head of the screw upon the prongs.

13. (original) The system of claim 12 further characterized in that the visible facing object is a faceplate of a columbarium.

14. (original) The system of claim 12 further characterized in that the torx socket in the head of the rivet nut screw includes a centrally located center pin, and

the head of the torx screwdriver includes a recess which receives the center pin

to thereby place the torx screwdriver into operative engagement with the rivet nut screw.

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15. (withdrawn) Fastening means for securing an object of stone or other similar frangible material to supporting structure,

said fastening means, when installed and activated, being indistinguishable to the eye from a point of a few feet away from said object,

the fastening means being located inwardly from the edge and corners of the object.

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) A system for securing a visible facing object to a rigid supporting structure using fastening means whereby, in use, the fastening means is indistinguishable from the exterior viewable surface of the visible surface of the facing object surrounding the fastening means from a very short distance away and virtually vandal proof, said system including
a supporting structure,
a visible facing object of stone or similar frangible material, and

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fastening means for securing the visible facing object to the supporting structure,

said fastening means being indistinguishable from the area surrounding the fastening means from a very short distance away,

the fastening means being accessible through a small access hole in the exterior, viewable surface of the visible facing object extending part way into the body thereof, and further including

a larger access hole in the interior hidden surface of the visible facing object which is axially concentric with the smaller access hole and extends into the body of said object from the interior surface thereof until it connects with the small access hole,

an opening in the supporting structure of a size suitable to slidably receive the threaded end of a rivet nut,

a rivet nut screw having a head received in the larger access hole,

a tube surrounding the rivet nut screw and extending between the rivet nut in its as made condition and the base of the larger access hole,

the size of the access hole being slightly larger than (a) the diameter of the head of the rivet nut screw and (b) twice the thickness of the wall of the tube,

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the head of the screw having means aligned with the small access hole to receive a tool for activating the rivet nut,

said fastening means further being virtually vandal proof.

23. (withdrawn) In a method of assembling and disassembling a facing object of stone or similar frangible material having an access aperture to a structure located behind the facing object, said method being virtually vandal proof ~~and non-visible~~, the steps of

providing anchor means which, when activated, becomes fixed to the structure,

providing fastening means aligned with the access aperture for assembling and disassembling the facing object to the structure after the anchor means is fixed to the structure,

activating the fastening means initially by a tool to permanently fix the anchor means to the structure and simultaneously fasten the facing object to the structure, and

thereafter activating the fastening means by said tool to disassemble the facing object from the structure while the fixed anchor means remains fixed to the structure,

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said fastening means fixing the facing object to the structure by wedging pressure exerted by the fastening means against the surface of a cavity located within the facing object, and

thereafter assembling and disassembling the facing object to the structure any desired number of times by alternately applying and releasing the wedging pressure, all the while the anchor means remains fixed to the structure.